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**COSMOS CORPORATION AGREES TO PAY \$1.55 MILLION
TO SETTLE CLAIMS ALLEGING GOVERNMENT CONTRACT FRAUD**

Baltimore, Maryland - COSMOS Corporation, located in Bethesda, Maryland, and Robert Yin and Karen Kaufman-Yin, who reside in Potomac, Maryland, have agreed to pay \$1,550,000 to settle claims that they submitted false claims under government contracts with the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and Justice, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "This settlement is further proof that the United States will not tolerate fraud involving government contracts."

COSMOS Corporation is in the business of social science research and provides applied research and evaluation, technical support, and management assistance to assist public policy makers, private enterprise, and collaborative ventures. COSMOS contracts with government agencies, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses. Robert Yin is President and Karen Kaufman-Yin is Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of COSMOS, and both are principal shareholders

The settlement arises out of a lawsuit filed under the qui tam or "whistle blower" provisions of the False Claims Act by Jennifer H. Pobiak, a former COSMOS employee. Enacted during the Civil War, the False Claims Act is the government's primary civil tool to combat fraud and abuse in federal programs and procurement. The Act allows the government to recover triple the amount of its actual damages, plus a civil penalty of \$5,500 to \$11,000 for each false claim. The qui tam provisions of the Act allow private parties to sue individuals and entities that have submitted false claims to the federal government and to receive a portion of the settlement if the government takes over the case and reaches a monetary agreement with the defendant. Pobiak will receive \$263,500 from the settlement.

The lawsuit alleged that COSMOS shifted labor costs from private contracts to government contracts, and improperly charged government contracts for costs associated with marketing COSMOS services, the preparation of bids and proposals, non-allowable administrative labor, and overhead.

As part of the settlement, COSMOS also entered into a 4 year Compliance Plan with the Office of the Inspector General for the National Science Foundation.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein commended the investigative work performed by the Offices of the Inspector General for the National Science Foundation and the Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Rosenstein also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Allen F. Loucks and Michael A. DiPietro and Investigator Steve Capobianco, who handled the case.